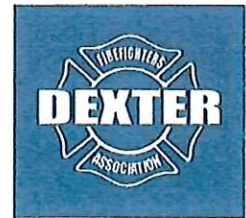


Dexter Area Fire Fighters
Local 4090



Dexter Firefighters
Association



April 4, 2019

City of Dexter

Attention: Mayor Shawn Keough and Dexter City Council Members

8123 Main Street

Dexter, Michigan 48130

Dear Elected Officials:

Imagine... it is 1955 in the Village of Dexter, Dwight D. Eisenhower was U.S. President, the minimum wage is \$1.00 per hour, yearly household income was \$1,900.00 and you can buy gas for \$0.23 cents a gallon. The Dexter Fire Department just moved into a new 4,200 square foot building at 8140 Main Street.

At that time, the Dexter Fire Department was an all volunteer department with no full time staff, housing their trucks in this building, with trainings typically held in the apparatus bays. The second floor of the building had a storage area and a meeting room.

64 years later, we live and work in the same building – a facility not planned for its current use:

- 2 Firefighters work/live a 24 hour shift; the living and sleeping quarters are a 840 sq ft loft area designed to be a storage room.
- We share a 640 square foot space with the Chief and his Assistant who work Monday through Friday. This space includes our kitchen, only bathroom and showers, dispatch, Chief's office, additional shared office spaces that also serves as the public entrance.
- The apparatus housed are approximately three times the size and weight as they were in 1955.
- Current standards (Building, Electrical, Mechanical, Fire or MIOSHA) are not in compliance as the building does not have adequate light, water, heat, ventilation or mechanical capabilities.

During the past 15 years, there have been numerous conversations regarding the plans for the Fire Department's needs, ranging from building a new facility to renovation the existing station. Terms of office and changes in elected officials have impeded the progress of this critical decision that are needed. Requests for building updates have been met with the message, "were not going to invest or upgrade this building now since we are going to replace or renovate this building."

The members of the Dexter Firefighters Association and IAFF Local 4090 respectfully request a defined plan of progress. We are happy to share our feedback, in addition to the formal reporting that has been received by retained consultants, expert in the best available options and standards for a department of our size and response model. It is our request that these findings be given due consideration, as these formal findings support the need for an immediate and long-term solution, and we respectfully request a response/plan of action.

Proudly, we are the people that respond when you dial 911, on your worse day. We respond at a moments notice with an unwavering commitment to do our best to protect the lives of our citizens and their property. We ask the same thoughtful protection of you by providing us an appropriate, efficient fire station at the best location that would be recommended by the consultants. This is essential for us to continue to plan, train and prepare for the City of Dexter, for those others covered by the Dexter Area Fire Department and the current and future members of the Dexter Area Fire Department.

We look forward to your thoughtful attention and positive reply.

Sincerely,



Tim Andrews, President Dexter Firefighters Association



Jason Hilberer, President Dexter Firefighters IAAF Local 4090

Cc; Chief Smith, DAFD

Harley Rider, Chairman Dexter Area Fire Authority